

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From some editorial notes:

... *Second Volume*.—With this issue the Publication Committee hands you the closing number of the second volume of your journal. It is by no means, as yet, fully the journal your committee would have it, but we feel that it is a pretty good journal and that you need not be ashamed of it. It is clean from cover to cover, so far as we know; it has not deviated one particle from the line marked for it; we have refused to print page after page of advertising that did not conform to the "Principles of Ethics of the American Medical Association." Were we to interpret these "principles" as loosely as have the trustees of the American Medical Association, very many dollars could have been added to the revenue of the society; but your committee would not. The work has not been easy and we have often fallen far short of our desired result, but we have given you of our very best, and no man can do more. . . .

... *Unkind Slander*.—It is true that your Publication Committee and your Council, through the pages of your journal, have called the attention of the trustees of the American Medical Association to certain of their methods in conducting the *Journal of the American Medical Association* which do not seem to conform to medical ethics as promulgated by the Association; but this is far different from an "attack" based upon and due to nothing more substantial than a "factional" feeling. We feel quite sure that no body of physicians in this country have a more deeply rooted affection for the American Medical Association. So proud are we of it and so much has it grown to mean to us that we cannot bear to see it doing even the least little thing that seems inconsistent with the very best and highest in medicine and medical ethics. . . .

... *Watch the Legislature*.—Elsewhere in this number of the journal will be found a list of the gentlemen who have been chosen to make and unmake and amend the laws of the State of California for the session beginning January 1, 1905. Study this list carefully. Bring up the matter in your county society, and discuss the personnel of the men from your section of the state. . . .

From a letter in the Correspondence Column:

... For at least five years, quiet, personal, effort had been made by others to induce the *Journal of the American Medical Association* to become decent, but without result; no one would speak out, and little could be done when all other medical journals in the land could point to the official organ of the physicians themselves as excuse for advertising absolutely rotten, vile, and worthless stuff, nostrums, etc., *ad nauseam*. The editor expected to get plenty of abuse, and he has not been disappointed; some of it has approached pretty close to personal slander. Fortunately for him, every step taken, every matter of policy, every decision connected with the advertising question has been gone over by the whole Publication Committee. . . .

From the minutes of the California Academy of Medicine:

... Meeting held in San Francisco, October 25, 1904. The president, Dr. T. W. Huntington, being in the chair. . . .

... Remarks on the diagnosis and treatment of fractures of the neck of the femur.

Dr. H. H. Sherman reported several cases of in-

juries about the hip which illustrate the importance of a special symptom, viz., the inability of the patient to lift his foot off the table when lying on his back. . . .

From the minutes of county medical societies:

... *Redlands Medical Society*.—The regular monthly meeting of the Redlands Medical Society was held in the Y. M. C. A. parlors on Wednesday afternoon, October 19, 1904. The members present were Doctors Evans, Browning, Tyler, Pounds, Strong, Major, Payton, Taltavall, Moseley, Wheat, Blythe, Sanborn, and Shreck. . . .

... *Fresno County*.—For the enlightenment of the journal readers, I will state that Dr. — is the president of our society and has always been a much-respected and popular member. Recently Dr. — has equipped his offices with a static machine, Finsen light, hot-air ovens, vibrating apparatus, etc., and has styled his offices a "Therapeutic Institute," and used the daily papers to a marked extent in giving publicity to these features. This procedure was frowned upon by many members of the society as going beyond the bounds of ethics. . . .

... *San Joaquin County*.—The last meeting of the San Joaquin County Medical Society was held at the office of Dr. Barton J. Powell. Two cases of hemorrhage after tonsillotomy were reported. One case was of especial interest, being that of a healthy boy of fifteen of good family history. The hemorrhage was controlled with a tonsillar tourniquet and patient discharged. One week later another hemorrhage occurred, but was checked with epinephrin solution without pressure. The patient rapidly regained his normal condition. The case was freely discussed and the value of the tourniquet in these very occasional cases appreciated. The value of the snare over the tonsillotomy brought out liberal discussion. . . .

... *San Francisco County*.—Meeting called to order at 8:45 p. m., November 8, the president, Doctor Rosenstirn, in the chair. . . .

... Dr. S. G. Nagel presented a case of amblyopia from wood alcohol poisoning, and said: "Maybe some of you have noticed a report by Dr. Casey Wood of serious results following ingestion of wood alcohol. . . ."

... Doctor Barkan said, in discussion: "In relation to this case presented by Doctor Nagel, I will simply say that it is indeed a very interesting one, and the first I have seen. They are not very frequent here. I am much obliged to Doctor Nagel for this opportunity to observe a case of this sort. . . ."

... Dr. S. J. Gardner presented some clinical notes on "An Unusual Infection in the Bones of the Foot."

Doctor Gardner said: "We wish to show the specimen of this case as it is one of unusual interest, especially to California physicians. A formal report will appear at some later time, as we are doing some work that will take considerable time and we do not wish to report the case formally until this work is completed. . . ."

"... In the tissues the parasite is similar to that first described by Wernicke in 1892; and to that described by Rixford and Gilchrist in their cases of so-called 'protozoan infection,' appearing in the *Johns Hopkins Hospital Reports* for 1896. The parasite has a coccidium-like appearance, being about five to twenty-five microns in diameter. . . ."

... Doctor Ophüls said: "If I may, I should like to say a few words on this very interesting subject. It seems to me that this affection is almost entirely limited to California. There is only one case reported in literature outside of California and that one occurred at Buenos Ayres in the Argentine Republic. Lately a similar case seems to have been observed in Boston. All cases except these, so far as known, have had their origin in California, and most of them in the San Joaquin Valley. As far as the parasite is concerned, it was as Doctor Halton has said, first regarded as a protozoan. . . ."

* This column aims to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.